

REMARKS

The Amendment

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Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 21-50 have been added. The new claims are supported by the originally filed specification, drawings and previous claims, and do not add new matter to the application.

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1. Summary of Applicant's Invention

Applicants provide a novel animal pen system whereby, at least in certain embodiments that are the subject of the pending claims, the animal pen system includes:

1. A body has a top surface, a bottom surface and a perimeter.
2. A support wall is connected to the body around the perimeter.
- 15 3. A removable pen wall is retained by the support wall.

A feature of the invention is that an attachment element includes a cord mount located in the support wall. At least one cord is mounted to the cord mount. The cord is connected to a hook. The hook is further connected to the pen wall to hold the pen wall to the body, (see figures 1 and 3 and paragraphs 18-20 of the specification).

20 A second feature of the invention is that the hook has a first receiver, a second receiver and a hook portion. The cord passes through the first receiver, (see figures 3 and 4 and paragraph 20 of the specification).

A third feature of the invention is that the body can be configured to encase the collapsed pen and form a carrying case enclosure, (see figure 7 and paragraph 23 of the specification).

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2. Claim Objection

Claim 2 was objected to due to an informality. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

3. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

5 Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 2,045,472 to Kearney. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-5, 7-13 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,544,864 to Lacki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. To the extent the Office feels the cited references may
10 be relevant to new claims 21-50, Applicants provide the following discussion.

Kearney appears to disclose a bird cage that has a cage and a body. The body is attached to the cage by a hook, (see figures 1 and 2 of Kearney).

Lacki appears to disclose a collapsible playpen for a child that has a base and a frame that supports flexible sheets. The frame is attached to the base by a slideable detent, (see figures 7
15 and 8 and columns 8 and 9 of Lacki).

Neither Kearney nor Lacki disclose, teach or suggest certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Neither Kearney nor Lacki include as in new independent claims 21, 36 or 46, a support wall that is connected to the body at the perimeter and extends outwardly from a top surface of the body. The support wall is substantially perpendicular to the top surface. A
20 removable pen wall is located within and is retained by the support wall. The pen wall has a first end resting on the first surface, adjacent the support wall and a second end that extends away from the first surface. The body forms a bottom of the animal pen system.

The dependent claims add further limitations that are not taught by either Kearney Lacki. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-50 are not anticipated by Kearney or Lacki.

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4. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent 2,045,472 to Kearney. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. To the extent the Office feels the cited references may be relevant to new claims 21-50, Applicants provide the following discussion.

10 Kearney discloses a bird cage that has a cage and a body. The body is attached to the cage by a hook, (see figures 1 and 2 of Kearney).

Kearney does not teach, disclose or suggest certain aspects of Applicants' invention. Kearney does not include or suggest as in new independent claims 21, 36 or 46, a support wall that is connected to the body at the perimeter and extends outwardly from a top surface of the body. The support wall is substantially perpendicular to the top surface. A removable pen wall is located within and is retained by the support wall. The pen wall has a first end resting on the first surface, adjacent the support wall and a second end that extends away from the first surface. The body forms a bottom of the animal pen system.

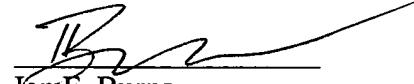
20 The dependent claims add further limitations that are neither taught nor suggested by Kearney. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 21-50 are not obvious in view of Kearney.

CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, the Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application or this
5 response, the Examiner is encouraged to call the Applicants' agent, Ian F. Burns, at (775) 826-6160.

Respectfully submitted,

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